UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/240
3 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a decree issued on 31 January 1996 by the President of Georgia concerning border and customs control on the sector of the State border between the Russian Federation and Georgia within the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, in the seaport of Sukhumi, port sites and the marine area (see annex I), as well as a statement on this subject issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on 25 March 1996 (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter ČHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative

96-08195 (E) 040496 040196 050496

/...

ANNEX I

[Original: Russian]

Decree issued on 31 January 1996 by the President of Georgia concerning border and customs control on the sector of the State border between the Russian Federation and Georgia within the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, and in the seaport of Sukhumi, port sites and the marine area

In the light of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the serious criminal situation that has emerged in the Caucasus region in general - a situation aggravated by the infiltration into the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, of mercenaries, arms, narcotics and contraband - which poses a threat to the State security of Georgia, its vital interests and its good-neighbourly relations with adjacent States, and also considering that it is impossible to guarantee the safety of transport facilities of foreign countries in the Abkhaz part of Georgia's territory, and with a view to implementing the decision adopted on 19 January 1996 by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, entitled "On measures to settle the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia":

1. The seaport of Sukhumi, port sites and the marine area and the sector of the State border between Georgia and the Russian Federation within the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, shall be closed to all forms of international shipments, with the exception of consignments of humanitarian aid shipped in accordance with this Decree;

2. The import of consignments of humanitarian aid into the territory of Abkhazia shall be allowed only on the basis of single-entry permits issued by the competent authorities of Georgia, following a preliminary customs inspection by the Customs Department of Georgia;

3. A special working group of the Government of Georgia shall be instructed to inform applicants, through the diplomatic channel, of the decision to issue single-entry permits for the import of humanitarian goods into the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia;

4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia shall be instructed:

- to receive, through the diplomatic channel, applications for permission to import humanitarian goods into the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia;

- to inform the border troops of the Russian Federation through the Georgian embassy that permission has been granted for the entry of transport facilities conveying humanitarian goods into the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia;

- to inform the appropriate international organizations, including the Mutual Insurance Club, that the sector of the State border between

Georgia and the Russian Federation within the territory of Abkhazia, and the seaport of Sukhumi, port sites and the marine area are closed to international shipments;

5. The State Border Protection Department and the Customs Department of Georgia shall be instructed to inform immediately the appropriate agencies of Georgia of the results of the customs inspection of consignments of humanitarian goods being shipped to Abkhazia, Georgia;

6. The State Border Protection Department and the Customs Department of Georgia shall be instructed to develop a mechanism for implementing this Decree and, together with the appropriate services of the Russian Federation, hold talks on the joint implementation of border control;

7. The decision of 24 May 1995 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia on the seaport of Sukhumi and port sites in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, shall be considered null and void.

E. SHEVARDNADZE

Tbilisi

ANNEX II

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 25 March 1996 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

In conformity with the decision adopted on 19 January 1996 by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, entitled "On measures to settle the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia", and in the light of the difficult situation in Abkhazia and the Caucasus region as a whole, and the recent exacerbation of the situation in the port of Sukhumi and port sites in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, which poses a threat to the State security of Georgia and its vital interests, and pursuant to Decree No. 140 issued on 31 January 1996 by the President of Georgia [see annex I], the seaport of Sukhumi and port sites of Abkhazia, Georgia, are closed to all forms of international shipments, with the exception of consignments of humanitarian aid.

Consignments of humanitarian aid may be imported into the territory of Abkhazia only if the supplier submits a prior request to the Government of Georgia in respect of each individual shipment, and on the basis of single-entry permits issued by the competent authorities of Georgia, following customs inspection in the port of Poti by agencies of the Customs Department of Georgia.

Georgia calls upon States sending their vessels to Georgian ports, and the relevant departments, organizations and private companies, to bear in mind the above circumstances and refrain from sending their vessels to the port of Sukhumi and port sites in Abkhazia, Georgia.

Tbilisi